

The Crucible, Act I by Arthur Miller
Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from the selection. Then, complete the activities.

Word List A

autocratic [ahw toh KRA tik] *adj.* dictatorial

In an autocratic system of government, the people have little or no power.

faction [FAK shuhn] *n.* party or interest group

A faction on the student council is unhappy with the class president.

homage [HAWH muhj] *n.* respectful attention

The flag flew at half mast in homage to a local firefighter who died recently.

hypocrisy [hi POK ruh see] *n.* pretense

If you say one thing and do another, you may be guilty of hypocrisy.

paradox [PAR uh doks] *n.* apparent contradiction

Philosophers think that every paradox is an illusion.

somber [SAHM buhr] *adj.* serious; solemn

Joe's somber expression as he entered was a clue that he had bad news.

villainous [VIL uh nuhs] *adj.* evil

The court punished the criminal's villainous behavior.

vindictive [vin DIK tiv] *adj.* vengeful

Glenda felt vindictive and decided to get revenge on her tattle-tale brother.

Word List B

anarchy [AN ahr kee] *n.* state of chaos

For some years after the revolution, that country was in a state of anarchy.

blatantly [BLAY tuhnt lee] *adv.* very openly; brazenly

Terence blatantly crossed the street against the light.

defamation [def uh MAY shuhn] *n.* slander

The star sued the tabloid publication for defamation when it published a scandalous story.

drastic [DRAS tik] *adj.* severe; harsh; extreme

If a tornado is forecast, we will have to take drastic action.

parochial [puh ROH kee uhl] *adj.* narrow-minded

Some people who have lived all their lives in small towns have a parochial outlook.

propriety [proh PRY uh tee] *n.* conformity with what is proper or fitting

Sandra is never unconventional and always behaves with complete propriety.

rankle [RAN kuhl] *v.* irritate; anger

Study hard, because if you get a low grade on the test it will surely rankle.

squabble [SKWAH buhl] *n.* small quarrel

The children became involved in a foolish squabble over some glass marbles.